

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. New claims 6-10 have been added. Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Ueda**

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ueda (U.S. Patent Number 6,172,681 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's claimed invention relates to extracting an association among colors before and after color correction. Image data is obtained from an input device receiving an original image. The image data is converted into coordinate values of a colorimetry color space describing a measured value of a color. Coordinate values of the colorimetry color space corresponding to the color of the original image are also obtained, without restriction in sequence of the step to be executed. Applicant's color correcting relation extracting method extracts the association between colors before and after the color correction.

Turning to the cited art, the disclosure of Ueda does not anticipate the claimed invention. While Ueda may refer to a color adjustment and conversion method, there is no teaching of all elements of Applicant's invention, as claimed. The Examiner cites to Ueda's figure 6 and column 8, lines 15-60, which describe a look up table (LUT) within which color data values, including those adjusted directly by a user, are stored. However, there is no disclosure in Ueda of extracting an association between colors before and after color correction, as Applicant claims. Ueda subjects only an image obtained by an input device to a color correction,

producing sets of RGB color data indicative of color states of a plurality of picture elements of the original image picked up by an image pick up device. Ueda also converts the RGB data sets into a plurality of Lab color data sets defined in the L\*a\*b\* colorimetric system. To the extent Ueda produces a plurality of sets of RGB color data, there is no further disclosure of such a coordinates obtaining step being not restricted in sequence of the step to be executed, as claimed. The examiner's reliance on Col. 8 does not support the rejection. The cited column 8 sets forth coordinate obtaining criterion in relation to data acquisition and output, whereby the output depends on parameters determined from an initial correction. Therefore, coordinate determinations are restricted by sequence of execution.

Additionally, Applicant's claimed invention recites that image data representative of a received image that has been subjected to a color correction is obtained from an input device. A first conversion step determines coordinate values of a colorimetry color space corresponding to a color of the received image in accordance with characteristics of an image output of an output device. Ueda's color adjustment and correction method is contrary to Applicant's claimed invention in that RGB data that has not yet been subjected to a correction is obtained from an input device. Furthermore, Ueda's LUT that represents characteristics of an image output of an output device is merely used to determine a CMYK value from a Lab value. The direction of conversion in Ueda is actually opposite to that of Applicant's invention. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claimed invention distinguishes over Ueda. Applicant's claim 2 is a dependent claim including all of the limitations of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Ueda. Therefore, Ueda does not anticipate claim 2 for at

least the aforementioned reasons as well as for its additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

In further regards to claim 2, Applicant recites a characteristic obtaining step of obtaining a characteristic value capable of being converted into the coordinate values of the colorimetry color space, corresponding to a color of the original image. Ueda neither discloses obtaining such a characteristic value, nor a further second conversion step of converting the characteristic value obtained by the characteristic value obtaining step into the coordinate values of the colorimetry color space. At least by virtue of these additional differences, Applicant's claimed invention distinguishes over Ueda.

**Newly Added Claims**

Claims 6-10 are newly added by this Amendment and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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